

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /091 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 622

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 02037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, FT, PFOR

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

1. DCM CALLED ON DE MARGERIE, ORTOLI'S CHEF DE CABINET
FEBRUARY 26 AND ASKED FOR ORTOLI'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS TRIP TO
WASHINGTON. DE MARGERIE SAID THAT ORTOLI HAD ONLY ONE MAJOR
OBJECTIVE FOR THE VISIT AND THAT WAS TO TRY TO IMPRESS ON
EVERYONE HE SAW THE FEELING OF STRONG CONCERN HE AND THE
COMMISSION HAVE REGARDING PROTECTIONIST PRESSURE IN THE US.
ORTOLI WAS REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINA-
TION TO RESIST PROTECTIONISM BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT HE GOT NO
COMMITMENTS ON SPECIFIC CASES.

2. ORTOLI WAS ALSO "VERY SATISFIED" WITH HIS DISCUSSIONS ON
THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. DE MARGERIE
SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH HIS TALK WITH ARTHUR
BURNS, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT INCLINED TO AGREE WITH ALL OF
BURNS' OBSERVATIONS.

3. DE MARGERIE SAID THE LEAST SATISFACTORY ASPECT OF THE
VISIT WAS THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN,
MAINLY BECAUSE HE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT DOMESTIC
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POLITICS IN AN ELECTION YEAR WOULD BE GIVEN EXCESSIVE WEIGHT

IN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ON TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETINGS WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WERE ALSO DISAPPOINTING SINCE ONLY A FEW SENATORS CAME, AND THEY DID NOT STAY FOR THE FULL MEETING. HOWEVER, DE MARGERIE SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BOTH WITH THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WERE STIMULATING AND, HE HOPES, USEFUL.

4. INITIAL REACTION OF OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS (INCLUDING SOAMES), PRESUMABLY BASED ON BRIEFING RIGHT AFTER ORTOLI'S RETURN, TENDED TO REFLECT SOME DISAPPOINTMENT OVER RECEPTIVITY ON CAPITOL HILL TO ORTOLI'S CONCERNS. SOAMES REMARKED TO DCM THAT IT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT AS GOOD AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN A US ELECTION YEAR BUT LESS THAN HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED. HOWEVER DE MARGERIE'S MORE CONSIDERED ASSESSMENT WAS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO PUT THE VISIT IN POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE. IN DAILY BRIEFING FOR PRESS FEBRUARY 26, COMMISSION SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ORTOLI WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH WASHINGTON VISIT. HINTON

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